IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented data communication method for exchanging data among a plurality of computers which are mutually coupled via a network,

each of the computers comprising a program which causes the computer to have a communicating function configured to transmit and receive data to and from one or more other computers, a data processing function configured to process data which are transmitted and received, and an output function configured to output data to an output section including a display depending on a process of the data processing function,

said data communication method comprising:

a storing step to store data received by the communicating function by the data processing function in one computer when receiving data from one or more other computers by the communicating function; and

a mode judging step to judge whether or not to output the received data to the output function of said one computer depending on a mode attribute of the received data and a communication mode of said one computer;

a public mode receiving step to immediately output the received data to the output function of said one computer and to reflect the received data to the display made by the output function of said one computer when said mode judging step judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates a public mode and said one computer is in the public mode; and

a local mode receiving step not to output the received data to the output function of said one computer while maintaining the display made by the output function of said one computer independent of the received data when said mode

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judging step judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public

mode but said one computer is in a local mode.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The data communication method as claimed in claim

1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a public mode receiving step to immediately output the received data to the output~~

~~function of said one computer when said mode judging step judges that the mode attribute of~~

~~the received data indicates a public mode and said one computer is in the public mode; and~~

[[a]] <u>wherein said</u> local mode receiving step ~~which does not output~~ <u>stores</u> the received

data ~~to the output function of~~ <u>in</u> said one computer when said mode judging step judges that

the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said one computer is in

[[a]] <u>the</u> local mode.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The data communication method as claimed in claim

2, wherein each of the computers has a private mode in which data is exchanged between

specific computers coupled to the network, said data communication method further

comprising:

a private mode receiving step ~~which does~~ <u>of</u> not ~~output~~ <u>outputting</u> the received data to

the output function of said one computer when said mode judging step judges that the mode

attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said one computer is in the private

mode.

Claim 4 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

each of the computers exchanges data related to content information using an encapsulated

document, said encapsulated document comprising a program code file related to the

communicating function, the data processing function and the output function which are

analyzed and executed by each of the computers and a content information file related to

substance data of a document, which files are encapsulated as a single document.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The data communication method as claimed in claim

1, wherein each of the computers comprises a~~ program which causes the computer to have~~ an

operation information acquiring function <u>configured</u> to acquire operation information related

to a user operation, and the data transmitted and received by the communicating function

includes the operation information acquired by the operation information acquiring function.

Claim 6 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 5, further

comprising:

a public mode transmitting step to continuously transmit the operation information to

the communicating function as public information in response to acquisition of the operation

information by the operation information acquiring function of said one computer in a public

mode, when said one computer transmits data to another computer by the communicating

function.

Claim 7 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising:

a local mode transmitting step to prohibit transmission of data from said one computer

in a local mode.

Claim 8 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 3, further

comprising:

a private mode switching step to automatically switch the communication mode of said one computer to the private mode when the communicating function of said one computer receives data unicasted from another computer.

Claim 9 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

a private mode switching step to automatically switch the communication mode of said one computer to the private mode when the communicating function of said one computer transmits data to a specific computer.

Claim 10 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a data transmission waiting step to wait transmission of data in a private mode until the operation information acquiring function of said one computer acquires the operation information for transmitting the data to a specific computer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The data communication method as claimed in claim 5, wherein each of the computers comprises a~~ program which causes the computer to have~~ a mode selecting function <u>configured</u> to switch the communication mode to a selected communication mode by accepting a user operation, and said mode judging step judges the communication mode of said one computer based on the selected communication mode accepted by the mode selecting function of said one computer.

Claim 12 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

a mode switching step to switch the communication mode of said one computer to the selected communication mode after storing the data output to the output section at a time when the user operation is made, if the operation information acquiring function of said one computer acquires the operation information related to switching of the communication mode by the mode selecting function.

Claim 13 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

a switching time output control step to refer to newest data stored for the selected communication mode and to output the newest data to the output section by the output function of said one computer, when switching the communication mode to the selected communication mode by the mode selecting function of said one computer after the operation information acquiring function of said one computer acquires the operation information related to the switching of the communication mode to the selected communication mode.

Claim 14 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

an information request command transmitting step to transmit, using the communicating function of said one computer, an information request command which requests newest data for a public mode with respect to a program running on another computer, if the operation information acquiring function of said one computer acquires operation information related to the switching of the communication mode to the public mode by the mode selecting function of said one computer.

Claim 15 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said information request command transmitting step determines the computer at a transmitting destination where the information request command is to be transmitted, by selecting the computer from a list of communicatable computers held by said one computer.

Claim 16 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

a first substituting step to refer to newest data for the public mode held in said one computer and to output the newest data to the output section by the output function of said one computer, if the list includes no computer to which the information request command is to be transmitted.

Claim 17 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a second substituting step to refer to newest data for a local mode held in said one computer and to output the newest data to the output section by the output function of said one computer, if the list includes no computer to which the information request command is to be transmitted and the newest data for the public mode is not held in said one computer.

Claim 18 (Original): The data communication method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

an information request command responding step to transmit the newest data for the public mode stored in said one computer using the communicating function of said one computer, with respect to another computer at a transmitting source of the information

request command, if the communicating function of said one computer receives the

information request command.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A data communication apparatus for exchanging

data with a plurality of apparatuses via a network, comprising:

a computer comprising a program which causes the computer to have a

communicating function <u>configured</u> to transmit and receive data to and from the <u>plurality of</u>

apparatuses, a data processing function <u>configured</u> to process data which are transmitted and

received, and an output function <u>configured</u> to output data to an output section <u>including a</u>

<u>display</u> depending on a process of the data processing function;

a storing section <u>configured</u> to store data received by the communicating function by

the data processing function when receiving data from one of the <u>plurality of</u> apparatuses by

the communicating function; and

a mode judging section <u>configured</u> to judge whether or not to output the received data

to the output function depending on a mode attribute of the received data and a

communication mode of said data communication apparatus<u>;</u>

<u>a public mode receiving section configured to immediately output the received data to</u>

<u>the output function and to reflect the received data to a display made by the output function</u>

<u>of said computer when said mode judging section judges that the mode attribute of the</u>

<u>received data indicates a public mode and said data communication apparatus is in the public</u>

<u>mode; and</u>

<u>a local mode receiving section configured not to output the received data to the output</u>

<u>function while maintaining the display made by the output function of said computer</u>

<u>independent of the received data when said mode judging section judges that the mode</u>

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attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said data communication

apparatus is in a local mode.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The data communication apparatus as claimed in

claim 19, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a public mode receiving section to immediately output the received data to the output~~

~~function when said mode judging section judges that the mode attribute of the received data~~

~~indicates a public mode and said data communication apparatus is in the public mode; and~~

[[a]] <u>wherein said</u> local mode receiving section ~~which does not output~~ <u>stores</u> the

received data ~~to the output function~~ when said mode judging section judges that the mode

attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said data communication

apparatus is in [[a]] <u>the</u> local mode.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The data communication apparatus as claimed in

claim 20, which has a private mode in which data is exchanged with a specific apparatus

coupled to the network, said data communication apparatus further comprising:

a private mode receiving section ~~which does~~ <u>configured to</u> not output the received

data to the output function when said mode judging section judges that the mode attribute of

the received data indicates the public mode but said data communication apparatus is in the

private mode.

Claim 22 (Original): The data communication apparatus as claimed in claim 19,

which exchange with the apparatuses data related to content information using an

encapsulated document, said encapsulated document comprising a program code file related

to the communicating function, the data processing function and the output function which

are analyzed and executed by said data communication apparatus and the apparatuses and a

content information file related to substance data of a document, which files are encapsulated

as a single document.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The data communication apparatus as claimed in

claim 18, further comprising:

a list displaying section configured to display a list of operation records for each

communication mode.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The data communication apparatus as claimed in

claim 19, further comprising:

a past data inspecting section configured to enable looking back at operation

information related to the data communication apparatus, transmitted and received data in a

public mode, and transmitted and received data in a private mode, based on the stored data, at

any time during the local mode.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A data communication system for exchanging data

among a plurality of computers which are mutually coupled via a network,

each of the computers comprising a program which causes the computer to have a

communicating function configured to transmit and receive data to and from one or more

other computers, a data processing function configured to process data which are transmitted

and received, and an output function configured to output data to an output section including

a display depending on a process of the data processing function,

each one of the computers receiving data by the communicating function comprising:

a storing section <u>configured</u> to store data received by the communicating

function by the data processing function; [[and]]

a mode judging section <u>configured</u> to judge whether or not to output the

received data to the output function of said one computer depending on a mode

attribute of the received data and a communication mode of said one computer<u>;</u>

<u>a public mode receiving section configured to immediately output the received</u>

<u>data to the output function of said one computer and to reflect the received data to a</u>

<u>display made by the output function of said one computer when said mode judging</u>

<u>step judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates a public mode and</u>

<u>said one computer is in the public mode; and</u>

<u>a local mode receiving section configured not to output the received data to</u>

<u>the output function while maintaining the display made by the output function of said</u>

<u>one computer independent of the received data when said mode judging step judges</u>

<u>that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said one</u>

<u>computer is in a local mode.</u>

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The data communication system as claimed in claim

25, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a public mode receiving section to immediately output the received data to the output~~

~~function of said one computer when said mode judging section judges that the mode attribute~~

~~of the received data indicates a public mode and said one computer is in the public mode; and~~

[[a]] <u>wherein said</u> local mode receiving section ~~which does not output~~ <u>stores</u> the

received data ~~to the output function of~~ <u>in</u> said one computer when said mode judging section

judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said one

computer is in [[a]] <u>the</u> local mode.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The data communication system as claimed in claim

26, wherein each of the computers has a private mode in which data is exchanged between

specific computers coupled to the network, said one computer further comprising:

a private mode receiving section ~~which does~~ configured to not output the received

data to the output function of said one computer when said mode judging section judges that

the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but said one computer is in

the private mode.

Claim 28 (Original): The data communication system as claimed in claim 25,

wherein each of the computers exchanges data related to content information using an

encapsulated document, said encapsulated document comprising a program code file related

to the communicating function, the data processing function and the output function which

are analyzed and executed by each of the computers and a content information file related to

substance data of a document, which files are encapsulated as a single document.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A tangible computer-readable storage medium

which stores a program for causing a computer to exchange data with a plurality of other

computers which are mutually coupled via a network, said program ~~causing the computer to~~

~~comprise~~ comprising:

a communicating ~~function~~ procedure causing the computer to transmit and receive

data to and from one or more other computers;

a data processing ~~function~~ procedure causing the computer to process data which are

transmitted and received;

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an output ~~function~~ <u>procedure causing the computer</u> to output data to an output section

<u>including a display</u> depending on a process of the data processing ~~function~~ <u>procedure</u>;

a storing ~~function~~ <u>procedure causing the computer</u> to store data received by the

communicating ~~function~~ <u>procedure</u> by the data processing ~~function~~ <u>procedure</u> when receiving

data from one or more other computers by the communicating ~~function~~ <u>procedure</u>; [[and]]

a mode judging ~~function~~ <u>procedure causing the computer</u> to judge whether or not to

output the received data to the output ~~function~~ <u>procedure</u> depending on a mode attribute of

the received data and a communication mode of the computer<u>;</u>

<u>a public mode receiving procedure causing the computer to immediately output the</u>

<u>received data to the output procedure and to reflect the received data to the display when said</u>

<u>mode judging procedure judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates a public</u>

<u>mode and the computer is in the public mode; and</u>

<u>a local mode receiving procedure causing the computer not to output the received data</u>

<u>to the output procedure while maintaining the display independent of the received data when</u>

<u>said mode judging procedure judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the</u>

<u>public mode but the computer is in a local mode</u>.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The <u>tangible</u> computer-readable storage medium as

claimed in claim 29, wherein said ~~program further causes the computer to comprise:~~

~~a public mode receiving function to immediately output the received data to the~~

~~output function when said mode judging function judges that the mode attribute of the~~

~~received data indicates a public mode and the computer is in the public mode; and~~

[[a]] local mode receiving ~~function which does not output~~ <u>procedure causes the</u>

<u>computer to store</u> the received data ~~to the output function~~ when said mode judging ~~function~~

procedure judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but

the computer is in [[a]] the local mode.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The tangible computer-readable storage medium as

claimed in claim 30, wherein each of the computers has a private mode in which data is

exchanged between specific computers coupled to the network, said program further ~~causing~~

~~the computer to comprise~~ comprising:

a private mode receiving ~~function which does~~ procedure causing the computer to not

output the received data to the output ~~function~~ procedure when said mode judging ~~function~~

procedure judges that the mode attribute of the received data indicates the public mode but

the computer is in the private mode.